

**What is claimed is:**

1. A base station supporting multicast communication, the base station comprising:

5 a response signal relay configured to transfer response signals transmitted from a plurality of mobile stations to a radio network controller, the response signals responding to a control signal for a multicast group; and wherein

the response signal relay transfers only a predetermined number of response signals to the radio network controller, and  
10 any following response signal is retained.

2. The base station according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined number is one.

15 3. A mobile station supporting multicast communication, the base station comprising:

a response signal creator configured to create a response signal to a control signal for a multicast group;

20 a response signal holder configured to hold the response signal for a predetermined duration; and

a response signal transmitter configured to transmit the response signal after holding the response signal for the predetermined duration.

25 4. A radio network controller supporting multicast communication, wherein

the radio network controller performs a predetermined processing on a predetermined number of response signals, the predetermined number of response signals being transmitted from

at least one first mobile station and responding to a control signal for a multicast group; and

the radio network controller performs processing on only the predetermined number of response signals, and any following  
5 response signal is unprocessed by the radio network controller, the following response signals being transmitted from at least one second mobile station.

5. The radio network controller according to claim 4,  
10 wherein the predetermined number is one.